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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/697,085

10/31/2003

Takao Nireki

SHO-0053

9736

23353

7590

12/15/2004

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EXAMINER

MILLER, PATRICK L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2837

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/697,085	Applicant(s) NIREKI ET AL.	
	Examiner Patrick Miller	Art Unit 2837	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 June 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>06222004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1-3 are objected to because of the following informalities: see bullet(s) below.

Appropriate correction is required.

- Claim 1 recites, “from outside” (l. 6) and “from the outside” (l. 15). The outside with respect to what? Please clarify.
- Claim 1 recites, “a motor” (l. 11). Change “a” to “the” or “said.”
- Claim 1 recites, “an operational instruction” (ll. 15-16). Change “an” to “the” or “said.”
- Claim 2 recites, “from the outside” (ll. 6 and 15). The outside with respect to what? Please clarify.
- Claim 2 recites, “an operational instruction” (ll. 14-15). Change “an” to “the” or “said.”
- Claim 3 recites, “an operational instruction” (l. 6). Change “an” to “the” or “said.”
- Claim 3 recites, “the outside” (l. 7). The outside with respect to what? Please clarify.

Double Patenting

2. Claims 1 and 2 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 6, respectively of copending Application No. 10/834,182. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because:
 - With respect to claims 1, a deceleration transmission mechanism and a speed reduction mechanism are determined to be obvious, analogous terms – they are both essentially terminology for reduction gears.

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- With respect to claim 2 and claim 6, a vibration-suppressing member and a vibration restraining member are determined to be obvious, analogous terms. These claims also use the same terminology as recited above for claims 1.
3. This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
- The claims are generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice. They appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document and are replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors. Specifically, the wording is somewhat awkward.
 - Claim 3 now depends from Claim 2. Claim 3 recites, that the “stop control” takes place after the “control for reducing the rotating speed.” However, the “control for reducing the rotating speed” is not recited in Claim 2, but rather, in Claim 1. Therefore, for examination purposes, the Examiner will perform a Prior Art search under the assumption that Claim 3 is meant to depend from Claim 1.
 - Please clarify this matter when responding.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe et al (JP 2003-117076) in view of Inoue (6,540,227).
- With respect to claim 1, Watanabe et al disclose a motor stop control device for a reel-type gaming machine which includes a motor having two pairs of excitation phases and the reel having a plurality of symbols (Figs. 1 and 4); the motor is stopped in response to an operational instruction ([0008]; “stop signal”); the motor stop control device comprising: a motor stop control means for reducing a rotational speed of the motor when a motor stop command is generated according to the operational stop command (abstract; [0008]-[0009]; Fig. 5; stop signal initiates braking by two-phase excitation from T1 to T2).
 - Watanabe et al do not disclose a deceleration transmission mechanism.
 - Inoue disclose a deceleration transmission mechanism used with a stepper motor (Fig. 4, #s 45-49). The motivation to use a deceleration transmission mechanism is to reduce the output shaft rotation with respect to the drive shaft rotation. This provides the advantage of more smoothly rotating the output shaft and thus, the load connected to the output shaft (col. 6, ll. 1-31).

- Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the device of Watanabe et al so that a deceleration transmission mechanism is between the motor and the output shaft, thereby providing the advantage of more smoothly rotating the output shaft and thus, the load connected to the output shaft, as taught by Inoue.
 - With respect to claim 3, Watanabe et al disclose the motor stop control means stops excitation of the two-phases after performing the control for reducing the rotating speed of the motor (Fig. 5, two-phase control brakes or reduces the rotating speed, and after this step, the motor is stopped by applying three-phase control at T2; see also [0008]-[0009]).
6. Claims 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe et al (JP 2003-117076) in view of Inoue (6,540,227) and Yamamoto (4,765,078).
- With respect to claim 2, Watanabe et al disclose a motor stop control device for a reel-type gaming machine which includes a motor having two pairs of excitation phases and the reel having a plurality of symbols (Figs. 1 and 4); the motor is stopped in response to an operational instruction ([0008]; “stop signal”); the motor stop control device comprising: a motor stop control means for reducing a rotational speed of the motor when a motor stop command is generated according to the operational stop command (abstract; [0008]-[0009]; Fig. 5; stop signal initiates braking by two-phase excitation from T1 to T2).
 - Watanabe et al do not disclose a deceleration transmission mechanism and a vibration-suppressing member.

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- Inoue disclose a deceleration transmission mechanism used with a stepper motor (Fig. 4, #s 45-49). The motivation to use a deceleration transmission mechanism is to reduce the output shaft rotation with respect to the drive shaft rotation. This provides the advantage of more smoothly rotating the output shaft and thus, the load connected to the output shaft (col. 6, ll. 1-31).
- Yamamoto disclose a vibration-suppressing member (Fig. 2, #24). The motivation to use a vibration-suppressing member is to provide the advantage of preventing the reel assembly from joggling in the rotation direction when the motor stops (col. 3, ll. 3-10).
- Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the device of Watanabe et al so that a deceleration transmission mechanism is between the motor and the output shaft, thereby providing the advantage of more smoothly rotating the output shaft and thus, the load connected to the output shaft, as taught by Inoue. Additionally, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the device of Watanabe et al with a vibration-suppressing member, thereby providing the advantage of preventing the reel from joggling in the rotation direction when the motor stops, as taught by Yamamoto.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick Miller whose telephone number is 571-272-2070. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5:30.

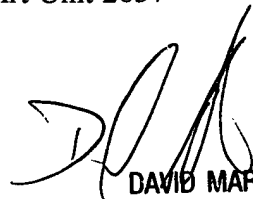
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Martin can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext 41. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9318.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-3431.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patrick Miller
Examiner
Art Unit 2837

pm
December 11, 2004


DAVID MARTIN
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